United Nations CERD/C/PAK/Q/21-23

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Distr.: General
13 June 2016

Original: English
English, French and Spanish only

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Ninetieth session
2-26 August 2016
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention

List of themes in relation to the combined twenty-first to twenty-third periodic reports of Pakistan*

Note by the Country Rapporteur

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination decided at its seventy-sixth session (see A/65/18, para. 85) that the Country Rapporteur would send to the State party concerned a short list of themes with a view to guiding and focusing the dialogue between the State party's delegation and the Committee during the consideration of the State party's report. The present document contains a list of such themes. It is not an exhaustive list; other issues may also be raised in the course of the dialogue. No written replies are required.

Statistics on the composition of the population and socioeconomic indicators

2. Detailed data on or recent estimates of the composition of the population, disaggregated by ethnicity and nationality, and on the socioeconomic status of members of various sections of the population (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, paras. 4-6).

Legislative and institutional framework, policies and programmes to ensure the implementation of the Convention (arts. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

3. Information on the measures taken to include in domestic law the definition of racial discrimination in compliance with article 1 of the Convention. Information on the adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, paras. 16-32).

4. Information on the measures taken to ensure the application of national laws in the entire territory of the State party, including the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the North-West Frontier Province. Detailed information on the situation regarding the

* The present report was submitted after the deadline in order to reflect recent developments.

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economic and social rights of persons living in those places, as well as on the ethnic and linguistic groups present there (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, paras. 7-8).

5. Information on the mandate and power of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan in relation to racial discrimination (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, paras. 37-38). Information on the power and functions of the National Commission for Minorities and on the measures taken to strengthen the Commission (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, paras. 16-22).

6. Information on the measures taken to provide effective remedies and reparation to victims of racial discrimination. Detailed information on the cases of racial discrimination brought as judicial proceedings and the remedies provided to the victims. Information on the efforts made to publicize the legal remedies available to victims of racial discrimination (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, para. 90).

7. Information on the measures taken to include, in school curricula and in the training curricula of teachers, programmes and subjects that help promote human rights issues, leading to better understanding, tolerance and friendship among all groups. Information on efforts to enhance public awareness of human rights, as well as respect for ethnic and religious minorities (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, paras. 80-81 and 91).

8. Information on the measures taken by the State party to ensure that all persons enjoy their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, without any discrimination based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, in accordance with article 5 (d) of the Convention.

9. Measures taken to protect human rights defenders, particularly those working on issues relating to racial discrimination.

Situation of minority groups and indigenous peoples

10. Information on the measures taken to address the abuse of blasphemy laws against religious and ethnic minorities and to implement the recommendations of the Gojra judicial inquiry (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, para. 105).

11. Information on the measures taken to investigate and prosecute all acts of violence in Baluchistan and to provide the victims with effective remedies (CERD/C/PAK/CO/20, para. 16). Information on the measures taken to ensure that members of ethnic minorities, particularly those living in terror-prone areas, are not adversely affected by the implementation of anti-terrorism laws (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, para. 47).

12. Specific information on the measures taken to combat violence against women, especially those belonging to minority groups, and the effectiveness of these measures. An update on the adoption of domestic violence laws at both the federal and provincial levels (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, paras. 48-52).

13. Information on the effectiveness of the measures taken by the State party to abolish bonded labour and rehabilitate freed bonded labourers, as indicated in paragraphs 73 and 76 of its report. Information on the implementation of sections 370, 371 and 374 of the Penal Code and the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance 2002.

14. Statistical data on or estimates of the Dalit population. Information on the adoption of legislation to prohibit caste-based discrimination. Information on the measures taken to address poor living conditions, forced labour and high illiteracy rates among Dalits. Information on the situation of Dalit women and girls abducted for the purpose of forced conversion and forced marriage, and the measures taken to eliminate the situation.

15. Information on the situation of indigenous peoples in the State party, the absence of a legislative framework to recognize indigenous peoples, and reports of the difficulties facing indigenous and tribal peoples, including poverty, inadequate livelihood opportunities,

limited access to health, education and basic public services, and endangered culture and environment (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, para. 92).

Situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (arts. 2 and 5)

16. Detailed data on or recent estimates of the number of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

17. Update on accession to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and on the adoption of a comprehensive legal framework governing the reception and treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. Information on the implementation of the Management and Repatriation Strategy for Afghan Refugees in Pakistan of 2010 (CERD/C/PAK/21-23, para. 46).

18. Information on the measures taken to improve living conditions in refugee camps, including access to health services, education, water and sanitation, and other basic services. Information on alleged reports of harassment and extortion of refugees by the police and the measures taken to address the situation.